

*Patent Application Serial No. 10/660,744*

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A settlement processing apparatus for transmitting/receiving information via a communicator between a communication terminal owned by a customer and a checkout terminal owned by an organization executing a business transaction with the customer, the checkout terminal generating a purchase data concerning contents of a debt, the purchase data comprising purchase identification data for identifying the debt, the purchase identification data comprising and including purchased items data for identifying the purchase data, that represent at least one purchased item, the settlement processing apparatus performing a settlement processing for settling the debt, comprising:

a customer identification data attaining section which ~~attains~~ acquires customer identification data for identifying the customer from the communication terminal via the communicator;

a purchase data attaining section which ~~attains~~ acquires the purchase data ~~concerning contents of the debt~~ from the communication terminal or the checkout terminal through the communicator;

a data storage which stores customer-specific data including the customer identification data and specifying the customer;

an authentication section which compares the customer identification data ~~attained~~ acquired by the customer identification data attaining section with the customer-specific data stored in the data storage [[,]] to authenticate the customer identification data; and

a settlement processing section which performs the processing for settling the debt, based on the customer-specific data corresponding to the customer identification data and the purchase data, when the authentication section authenticates the customer identification data, and which ~~processes~~ transmits a settlement completion code indicating that the processing is completed and

*Patent Application Serial No. 10/660,744*

the purchased items data to the communication terminal via the communicator when ,after the processing is completed.

~~, transmitting the settlement completion code and the purchased items data.~~

Claim 2 (previously presented): The settlement processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the purchase data is transmitted from the checkout terminal being associated with the customer identification data,

the authentication section determines whether the customer identification data transmitted by the communication terminal is the same as the customer identification data transmitted by the checkout terminal, and

when the customer identification data transmitted by the communication terminal is determined to be the same as the customer identification data transmitted by the checkout terminal, the authentication section compares the customer identification data with the customer-specific data.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The settlement processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the purchase data is transmitted from the checkout terminal to the communication terminal, the communication terminal transmitting the purchased items data and the customer identification data to the customer identification data attaining section and the authentication section respectively,

the checkout terminal transmits the purchase data to the purchase data attaining section,

the authentication section determines whether the purchased items data transmitted by the communication terminal is the same as the purchased items data contained in the purchase data transmitted by the checkout terminal, and

*Patent Application Serial No. 10/660,744*

when the purchased items data transmitted by the communication terminal is determined to be the same as the purchased items data contained in the purchase data transmitted by the checkout terminal, the authentication section compares the customer identification data with the customer-specific data.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The settlement processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

the communication terminal and the checkout terminal can be connected via a terminal communicator [[,]] enabling transmission/reception of data,

the customer identification data is data specific to the communication terminal,

the communication terminal comprises a communication terminal storage which stores the customer identification data and the purchase data attained via the terminal communicator [[,]] with the customer identification data and the purchase data associated with each other, and

the customer identification data attaining section and the purchase data attaining section ~~attain~~ acquire the customer identification data and the purchase data stored in the communication terminal storage.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): The settlement processing apparatus according to claim 4, comprising a storage which stores the customer identification data and the purchase data ~~attained~~ acquired from the communication terminal storage of the communication terminal, wherein

the purchase data includes purchased items data which identifies the purchase data,

after the purchase data attaining section ~~attains~~ acquires the purchase data from the communication terminal storage of the communication terminal, the purchase data attaining section further ~~attains~~ acquires the purchased items data from the checkout terminal,

*Patent Application Serial No. 10/660,744*

the authentication section determines whether the purchased items data ~~attained~~ acquired from the checkout terminal by the purchase data attaining section is equal to the purchased items data included in the purchase data stored in the storage [[,]] and, if both are determined to be equal, the authentication section compares the customer identification data corresponding to the purchased items data and stored in the storage with the customer-specific data [[,]] to authenticate the customer identification data, and

if the customer identification data is authenticated by the authentication section, the settlement processing section performs the processing for settling the debt [[,]] based on the purchase data stored in the storage and the customer-specific data corresponding to the customer identification data.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (currently amended): The settlement processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

the checkout terminal comprises an input section for inputting the customer identification data [[,]] and a checkout terminal storage which stores the customer identification data inputted by the input section [[,]] and the purchase data, with both associated with each other, and

the customer identification data attaining section and the purchase data attaining section ~~attain~~ acquire the customer identification data and the purchase data stored in the checkout terminal storage of the checkout terminal.

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): The settlement processing apparatus according to claim 8, comprising a storage which stores the customer identification data and the purchase data ~~attained~~ acquired from the checkout terminal storage of the checkout terminal, wherein

the customer identification data is data specific to the communication terminal,

*Patent Application Serial No. 10/660,744*

the communication terminal comprises a communication terminal storage which stores the customer identification data,

after the customer identification data attaining section ~~attains~~ acquires the customer identification data from the checkout terminal storage of the checkout terminal, the customer identification data attaining section further ~~attains~~ acquires the customer identification data stored in the communication terminal storage of the communication terminal,

the authentication section determines whether the customer identification data ~~attained~~ acquired from the communication terminal storage of the communication terminal by the customer identification data attaining section is equal to the customer identification data stored in the storage [[,]] and, if both are determined to be equal, the authentication section compares the customer identification data with the customer-specific data [[,]] to authenticate the customer identification data, and

if the customer identification data is authenticated by the authentication section, the settlement processing section performs the processing for settling the debt [[,]] based on the purchase data stored in the storage and the customer-specific data corresponding to the customer identification data.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): The settlement processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the checkout terminal comprises a checkout terminal storage which stores the customer identification data,

the checkout terminal determines whether the customer identification data inputted by the input section is equal to the customer identification data stored in the checkout terminal storage, and

if both are determined to be equal by the checkout terminal, the customer identification data attaining section ~~attains~~ acquires the customer identification data.

*Patent Application Serial No. 10/660,744*

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): The settlement processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

the customer identification data is data specific to the communication terminal,

the communication terminal comprises a communication terminal storage which stores the customer identification data,

the customer identification data attaining section ~~attains~~ acquires the customer identification data stored in the communication terminal storage of the communication terminal, and

the purchase data attaining section ~~attains~~ acquires the purchase data from the checkout terminal.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (currently amended): The settlement processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein

the communication terminal and the checkout terminal can be connected via a terminal communicator ~~[[,]]~~ enabling transmission/reception of data,

the checkout terminal comprises a checkout terminal storage which stores the purchase data and the customer identification data ~~attained~~ acquired via the terminal communicator ~~[[,]]~~ with the purchase data and the customer identification data associated with each other,

the purchase data attaining section ~~attains~~ acquires the purchase data stored in the checkout terminal storage of the checkout terminal ~~[[,]]~~ and also ~~attains~~ acquires the customer identification data,

the authentication section determines whether the customer identification data ~~attained~~ acquired from the checkout terminal storage of the checkout terminal by the purchase data attaining section is equal to the customer identification data ~~attained~~ acquired from the

*Patent Application Serial No. 10/660,744*

communication terminal storage of the communication terminal by the customer identification data attaining section [[,]] and, if both are determined to be equal, the authentication section associates the customer identification data ~~attained~~ acquired by the customer identification data attaining section with the purchase data ~~attained~~ acquired by the purchase data attaining section [[,]] and compares the customer identification data with the customer-specific data [[,]] to authenticate the customer identification data, and

if the customer identification data is authenticated by the authentication section, the settlement processing section performs the processing for settling the debt [[,]] based on the purchase data associated by the authentication section and the customer-specific data corresponding to the customer identification data.

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): The settlement processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein

the communication terminal and the checkout terminal can be connected via a terminal communicator [[,]] enabling transmission/reception of data,

the purchase data includes purchased items data which identifies the purchase data,

the communication terminal storage of the communication terminal stores the customer identification data and the purchased items data ~~attained~~ acquired by the terminal communicator [[,]] with the customer identification data and the purchased items data associated with each other,

the customer identification data attaining section ~~attains~~ acquires the customer identification data stored in the communication terminal storage of the communication terminal [[,]] and also ~~attains~~ acquires the purchased items data,

the authentication section determines whether the purchased items data ~~attained~~ acquired from the communication terminal storage of the communication terminal by the customer

*Patent Application Serial No. 10/660,744*

identification data attaining section is equal to the purchased items data included in the purchase data ~~attained~~ acquired from the checkout terminal by the purchase data attaining section [[,]] and, if both are determined to be equal, the authentication section associates the customer identification data ~~attained~~ acquired by the customer identification data attaining section with the purchase data ~~attained~~ acquired by the purchase data attaining section [[,]] and compares the customer identification data with the customer-specific data [[,]] to authenticate the customer identification data, and

if the customer identification data is authenticated by the authentication section, the settlement processing section performs the processing for settling the debt [[,]] based on the purchase data associated by the authentication section and the customer-specific data corresponding to the customer identification data.

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (currently amended): The settlement processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein

the purchase data includes purchased items data which identifies the purchase data, the communication terminal comprises an input section for inputting the purchased items data,

the communication terminal storage of the communication terminal stores the purchased items data inputted by the input section and the customer identification data [[,]] with the purchased items data and the customer identification data associated with each other,

the customer identification data attaining section ~~attains~~ acquires the customer identification data stored in the communication terminal storage of the communication terminal [[,]] and also ~~attains~~ acquires the purchased items data,

the authentication section determines whether the purchased items data ~~attained~~ acquired from the communication terminal storage of the communication terminal by the customer



*Patent Application Serial No. 10/660,744*

identification data attaining section is equal to the purchased items data included in the purchase data ~~attained~~ acquired from the checkout terminal by the purchase data attaining section [[,]] and, if both are determined to be equal, the authentication section associates the customer identification data ~~attained~~ acquired by the customer identification data attaining section with the purchase data ~~attained~~ acquired by the purchase data attaining section [[,]] and compares the customer identification data with the customer-specific data [[,]] to authenticate the customer identification data, and

if the customer identification data is authenticated by the authentication section, the settlement processing section performs the processing for settling the debt [[,]] based on the purchase data associated by the authentication section and the customer-specific data corresponding to the customer identification data.

Claim 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (currently amended): The settlement processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein

the customer identification data includes principle confirmation data for confirming the customer himself or herself,

the checkout terminal comprises an input section for inputting the principal confirmation data [[,]] and a checkout terminal storage which stores the principal confirmation data inputted by the input section and the purchase data [[,]] with the principal confirmation data and the purchase data associated with each other,

the purchase data attaining section ~~attains~~ acquires the purchase data stored in the checkout terminal storage of the checkout terminal [[,]] and also ~~attains~~ acquires the principal confirmation data,

the authentication section determines whether the principal confirmation data ~~attained~~ acquired from the checkout terminal storage of the checkout terminal by the purchase data

*Patent Application Serial No. 10/660,744*

attaining section is equal to the principal confirmation data included in the customer identification data ~~attained~~ acquired from the communication terminal storage of the communication terminal by the customer identification data attaining section [[,]] and, if both are determined to be equal, the authentication section associates the customer identification data ~~attained~~ acquired by the customer identification data attaining section with the purchase data ~~attained~~ acquired by the purchase data attaining section [[,]] and compares the customer identification data with the customer-specific data [[,]] to authenticate the customer identification data, and

if the customer identification data is authenticated by the authentication section, the settlement processing section performs the processing for settling the debt [[,]] based on the purchase data associated by the authentication section and the customer-specific data corresponding to the customer identification data.

Claim 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (currently amended): The settlement processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein

the communication terminal and the checkout terminal each have an input section for inputting comparison data which associates the customer identification data with the purchase data,

the customer identification data attaining section ~~attains~~ acquires the customer identification data from the communication terminal [[,]] and also ~~attains~~ acquires the comparison data inputted by the input section,

the purchase data attaining section ~~attains~~ acquires the purchase data from the checkout terminal [[,]] and also ~~attains~~ acquires the comparison data inputted by the input section,

the authentication section determines whether the comparison data ~~attained~~ acquired by the customer identification data attaining section is equal to the comparison data ~~attained~~

*Patent Application Serial No. 10/660,744*

acquired by the purchase data attaining section [[,]] and, if both are determined to be equal, the authentication section associates the customer identification data ~~attained~~ acquired by the customer identification data attaining section with the purchase data ~~attained~~ acquired by the purchase data attaining section [[,]] and compares the customer identification data with the customer-specific data [[,]] to authenticate the customer identification data, and

if the customer identification data is authenticated by the authentication section, the settlement processing section performs the processing for settling the debt [[,]] based on the purchase data associated by the authentication section and the customer-specific data corresponding to the customer identification data.

Claim 25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (currently amended): The settlement processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

the customer identification data, the customer-specific data, and the purchase data each include residence data concerning residence of at least one of the customer, the communication terminal, and the checkout terminal, and

after completion of the processing for settling the debt, the settlement processing section processes the settlement completion code indicating that the processing has been completed on the basis of the residence data included in ~~attained~~ acquired data, making at least one of the communication terminal and the checkout terminal be able to notify the customer of the settlement completion code.

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (currently amended): The settlement processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

*Patent Application Serial No. 10/660,744*

the customer identification data, the customer-specific data, and the purchase data each include residence data concerning residence of at least one of the customer, the communication terminal, and the checkout terminal, and

before performing the processing for settling the debt, the settlement processing section processes settlement content data concerning contents of settlement of the debt, on the basis of the residence data included in ~~attained~~ acquired data, making at least one of the communication terminal and the checkout terminal be able to notify the customer of the settlement content data.

Claim 29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (currently amended): The settlement processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the data storage stores the ~~attained~~ acquired purchase data and settlement completion determination data indicating whether the processing for settling the debt on the basis of the ~~attained~~ acquired purchase data has been completed, with the ~~attained~~ acquired purchase data and the settlement completion determination data associated with each other, and

before performing the processing for settling the debt, the settlement processing section determines whether the processing for settling the debt has been completed, on the basis of the settlement completion determination data corresponding to the purchase data.

Claim 31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (currently amended): The settlement processing apparatus according to claim 30, wherein

if it is determined that the processing for settling the debt has not yet been completed, the settlement processing section performs the processing for settling the debt, based on the customer identification data authenticated by the authentication section and the ~~attained~~ acquired purchase data.

*Patent Application Serial No. 10/660,744*

Claim 33 (canceled)

Claim 34 (original): The settlement processing apparatus according to claim 1, comprising:

a setting input recognition section which recognizes a setting input requesting disclosure of the purchase data by an input operation; and

a notification section which outputs the purchase data, making the customer be able to recognize the purchase data, if the setting input is recognized by the setting input recognition section.

Claim 35 (canceled)

Claim 36 (currently amended): A settlement processing system which performs a settlement processing for settling a debt issued by a business transaction with a customer, comprising:

a communication terminal owned by a customer that is capable of transmitting/receiving information;

a checkout terminal owned by an organization executing a business transaction with the customer, the checkout terminal generating a purchase data concerning contents of a debt, the purchase data comprising purchase identification data for identifying the debt, the purchase identification data comprising and including purchased items data for identifying the purchase data, that represent at least one purchased item;

a settlement processing apparatus for settling the purchase information; and

a communicator for allowing information transmission/receipt among the communication terminal, the checkout terminal and the settlement processing apparatus, wherein

the settlement processing apparatus having comprising:

a customer identification data attaining section which attains acquires customer identification data for identifying the customer,

*Patent Application Serial No. 10/660,744*

a purchase data attaining section which ~~attains~~ acquires the purchase data concerning ~~contents of the debt~~ from at least one of the communication terminal ~~[[or]]~~ and the checkout terminal,

a data storage which stores customer-specific data including the customer identification data and specifying the customer,

an authentication section which compares the customer identification data ~~attained~~ acquired by the customer identification data attaining section with the customer-specific data stored in the data storage to authenticate the customer identification data,

a settlement processing section which performs the processing for settling the debt ~~[[,]]~~ based on the customer-specific data corresponding to the customer identification data and the ~~attained~~ acquired purchase data when the authentication section authenticates the customer identification data ~~[[,]]~~ and which processes settlement completion code indicating that the processing is completed; and

a notifier that, ~~after~~ when the processing for settling the debt is completed, transmits the settlement completion code and the purchased items data to the communication terminal.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The settlement processing system according to claim 36, wherein

the purchase data is transmitted from the checkout terminal being associated with the customer identification data,

the authentication section determines whether the customer identification data transmitted by the communication terminal is the same as the customer identification data transmitted by the checkout terminal, and

when the customer identification data transmitted by the communication terminal is determined to be the same as the customer identification data transmitted by the checkout

*Patent Application Serial No. 10/660,744*

terminal, the authentication section compares the customer identification data with the customer-specific data.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The settlement processing system according to claim 36, wherein

the purchase data is transmitted from the checkout terminal to the communication terminal, the communication terminal transmitting the purchased items data and the customer identification data to the customer identification data attaining section and the authentication section respectively,

the checkout terminal transmits the purchase data to the purchase data attaining section, the authentication section determines whether the purchased items data transmitted by the communication terminal is the same as the purchased items data contained in the purchase data transmitted by the checkout terminal, and

when the purchased items data transmitted by the communication terminal is determined to be the same as the purchased items data contained in the purchase data transmitted by the checkout terminal, the authentication section compares the customer identification data with the customer-specific data.

Claim 39 (canceled)

Claim 40 (original): The settlement processing system according to claim 36, wherein the communicator is a network.

Claim 41 (canceled)

Claim 42 (currently amended): A settlement processing method for performing a settlement processing for settling a debt issued by a business transaction by transmitting/receiving information between a communication terminal owned by a customer that is capable of

*Patent Application Serial No. 10/660,744*

transmitting/receiving information and a checkout terminal owned by an organization executing the business transaction with the customer, the checkout terminal generating a purchase data concerning contents of a debt, the purchase data comprising purchase identification data for identifying the debt, the purchase identification data comprising and including purchased items data for identifying the purchase data, that represent at least one purchased item; the method comprising:

providing a settlement processing apparatus for performing the settlement processing, the settlement processing apparatus storing a customer specific data for specifying the customer, the customer specific information including an authentication customer identification data for authenticating the customer;

connecting the communication terminal, the checkout terminal and the settlement processing apparatus with a communicator;

~~attaining~~ acquiring customer identification data for identifying the customer from the communication terminal by the settlement processing apparatus ~~[[,]]~~ and the purchase data concerning contents of the debt from the communication terminal or the checkout terminal;

comparing the ~~attained~~ acquired customer identification data with the authentication customer identification data to authenticate the customer identification data;

performing the processing for settling the debt, based on the customer identification data and the purchase data, when the customer identification data is authenticated ; and

transmitting settlement completion code indicating that the processing is completed and the purchased items data to the communication terminal after the processing for settling the debt is completed.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The settlement processing method according to claim 42, wherein



*Patent Application Serial No. 10/660,744*

the purchase information is transmitted from the checkout terminal while being associated with the customer identification information, and

the authentication section determines whether the customer identification data transmitted by the communication terminal is the same as the customer identification data transmitted by the checkout terminal, and

when the customer identification data transmitted by the communication terminal is determined to be the same as the customer identification data transmitted by the checkout terminal, the settlement processing apparatus performs the comparing.

Claim 44 (currently amended): A settlement processing program for making a computer execute the settlement processing method by transmitting/receiving information between a communication terminal owned by a customer that is capable of transmitting/receiving information and a checkout terminal owned by an organization executing a business transaction with the customer, the checkout terminal generating a purchase data concerning contents of a debt, the purchase data comprising purchase identification data for identifying the debt, the purchase identification data comprising and including purchased items data for identifying the purchase data, that represent at least one purchased item, the method comprising: the steps of:

providing a settlement processing apparatus for performing the settlement processing, the settlement processing apparatus storing a customer-specific data for specifying the customer, the customer-specific data including an authentication customer identification data for authenticating the customer;

connecting the communication terminal, the checkout terminal and the settlement processing apparatus with a communicator;

attaining acquiring customer identification data for identifying the customer from the communication terminal by the settlement processing apparatus ~~[[,]]~~ and the purchase data concerning contents of the debt from the communication terminal or the checkout terminal;

*Patent Application Serial No. 10/660,744*

comparing the ~~attained~~ acquired customer identification data with the authentication customer identification data to authenticate the customer identification data;

performing the processing for settling the debt, based on the customer identification data and the purchase data, when the customer identification data is authenticated ; and

transmitting settlement completion code indicating that the processing is completed and the purchased items data to the communication terminal after the processing for settling the debt is completed.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The settlement processing program for making a computer execute the settlement processing method according to claim 44, wherein:

the purchase information is transmitted from the checkout terminal while being associated with the customer identification data, and

the authentication section determines whether the customer identification data transmitted by the communication terminal is the same as the customer identification data transmitted by the checkout terminal, and

when the customer identification data transmitted by the communication terminal is determined to be the same as the customer identification data transmitted by the checkout terminal, the settlement processing apparatus performs the comparing.

Claim 46 (currently amended): A recording medium which records the settlement processing program in a computer-readable form, the settlement processing program making a computer execute a settlement processing method by transmitting/receiving information between a communication terminal owned by a customer that is capable of transmitting/receiving information and a checkout terminal owned by an organization executing a business transaction with the customer, the checkout terminal generating a purchase data concerning contents of a debt, the purchase data comprising purchase identification data for identifying the debt, the

*Patent Application Serial No. 10/660,744*

purchase identification data comprising and including purchased items data for identifying the purchase data; that represent at least one purchased item, the method comprising: having the steps of:-

providing a settlement processing apparatus for performing the settlement processing, the settlement processing apparatus storing a customer-specific data for specifying the customer, the customer-specific data including an authentication customer identification data for authenticating the customer;

connecting the communication terminal, the checkout terminal and the settlement processing apparatus with a communicator;

attaining acquiring customer identification data for identifying the customer from the communication terminal by the settlement processing apparatus, and the purchase data concerning contents of the debt from the communication terminal or the checkout terminal;

comparing the attained acquired customer identification data with the authentication customer identification data to authenticate the customer identification data;

performing the processing for settling the debt, based on the customer identification data and the purchase data, when the customer identification data is authenticated ; and

transmitting settlement completion code indicating that the processing is completed and the purchased items data to the communication terminal after the processing for settling the debt is completed.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The recording medium which records the settlement processing program in a computer-readable form according to claim 46, wherein:

the purchase information is transmitted from the checkout terminal while being associated with the customer identification data, and

*Patent Application Serial No. 10/660,744*

the authentication section determines whether the customer identification data transmitted by the communication terminal is the same as the customer identification data transmitted by the checkout terminal, and

when the customer identification data transmitted by the communication terminal is determined to be the same as the customer identification data transmitted by the checkout terminal, the settlement processing apparatus performs the comparing.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The settlement processing method according to claim 42, wherein

the purchase data is transmitted from the checkout terminal to the communication terminal, the communication terminal transmitting the purchased items data and the customer identification data to the customer identification data attaining section and the authentication section respectively,

the checkout terminal transmits the purchase data to the purchase data attaining section,

the authentication section determines whether the purchased items data transmitted by the communication terminal is the same as the purchased items data contained in the purchase data transmitted by the checkout terminal, and

when the purchased items data transmitted by the communication terminal is determined to be the same as the purchased items data contained in the purchase data transmitted by the checkout terminal, the settlement processing apparatus performs the comparing.